

THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A system supporting the indirect control of at least one media peripheral, the system comprising:

a first television display in a first home;

a first storage in the first home, the first storage for storing media, and having a first network protocol address with respect to a first user in the first home;

a second storage in the second home, and having a second network protocol address with respect to a second user in the second home, wherein the second user is known to the first user;

at least one media peripheral, in the second home, communicatively coupled to the second storage; and

server software that maintains a user defined association of the first and second network protocol addresses and that receives via a communication network a request that identifies one of the associated first and second network protocol addresses, one of the at least one media peripheral, and at least one media peripheral command selected by a user at the first home, and responds by identifying the other of the associated first and second network protocol addresses to support control from the first home, via the communication network, of the identified one of the at least one media peripheral, at the second home, according to the at least one media peripheral command.

2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second network protocol addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, or an electronic serial number (ESN).

3. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises one or more of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, an MP3 player, a home juke-box system, a multi-media personal digital assistant (PDA), and/or a mobile multi-media gateway device.

4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, and data.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the media comprises real-time video.

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one media peripheral command comprises one or more of on, off, select, play, capture, download, erase, delete, zoom, focus, pan, tilt, set compression format, set resolution, set frame rate, set quality, rewind, fast forward, scan, list, skip, and/or check status.

7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising: a user interface, at the first home, for identifying at least one of the second home, the at least one media peripheral, and the at least one media peripheral command; and the user interface supporting at least one media channel.

10. (Currently amended) A system supporting the indirect control of at least one media peripheral, the system comprising:

a first storage in a first home that stores media, and having a first network address with respect to a first user in the first home;

a second storage in a second home, and having a second network address with respect to a second user in the second home, wherein the second user is known to the first user;

set top box circuitry, in the first home, communicatively coupled to the first storage and the second storage;

at least one media peripheral, in the second home, communicatively coupled to the second storage; and

server software that maintains a user defined association of the first and second network addresses and that receives a request that identifies one of the associated first and second network addresses, one of the at least one media peripheral in the second home, and at least one media peripheral command selected at the first home, and responds by identifying the other of the associated first and second network addresses to support control, via a communication network, of the identified one of the at least one media peripheral, according to the at least one media peripheral command.

11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 10 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, and/or data.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 10 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises one or more of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, an MP3 player, a home juke-box system, a multi-media personal digital assistant (PDA), and/or a mobile multi-media gateway device.

13. (Previously presented) The system of claim 10 wherein the first and second network addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, or an electronic serial number (ESN).

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 10 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

15. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

16. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the server software forwards media from the at least one media peripheral to the set top box circuitry.

17. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the server software is at a location separate from the first home and the second home.

18. (Previously presented) A system supporting the indirect control of at least one media peripheral, the system comprising:

a first storage, in a first home, that stores media;

at least one media peripheral, in a second home;

set top box circuitry, in the first home, communicatively coupled via a communication network, to exchange media between the first storage and the at least one media peripheral, the at least one media peripheral being configured to be indirectly controlled by the set top box circuitry in the first home; and

server software that supports the delivery of at least one media peripheral command to the at least one media peripheral, and the exchange of media between the at least one media peripheral and the set top box circuitry.

19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real-time video, and/or data.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the at least one media peripheral command comprises one or more of on, off, select, play, capture, download, erase, delete, zoom, focus, pan, tilt, set compression format, set resolution, set frame rate, set quality, rewind, fast forward, scan, list, skip, and/or check status.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises one or more of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, an MP3 player, a home juke-box system, a multi-media personal digital assistant (PDA), and/or a mobile multi-media gateway device.

23. (Previously presented) A system supporting the indirect control of at least one media peripheral, the system comprising:

set top box circuitry, in a first home, communicatively coupled to control a media peripheral at a second home; and

software that maintains a user defined association of first and second network protocol addresses with respect to first and second users, respectively, in the first and second homes, respectively, wherein the first and second users know one another, the software receives via a communication network a request that identifies one of the associated first and second network protocol addresses, and responds by identifying the other of the associated first and second network protocol addresses to support control from the first home, by the set top box circuitry, via the communication network, of the media peripheral at the second home.

24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the first and second network protocol addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, or an electronic serial number (ESN).

25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the media peripheral comprises one or more of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, an MP3 player, a home juke-box system, a multi-media personal digital assistant (PDA), and/or a mobile multi-media gateway device.

26. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

27. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

28. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23 further comprising: a user interface, at the first home, for identifying at least one of the second home, the media peripheral, and at least one media peripheral command; and the user interface supporting at least one media channel.